

Letter from John Phoenix.
We find in the New Orleans *Picayune*, a letter

from the inimitable humorist, John Phemix, a portion of which we copy. After mentioning the price of the bag and the fact that the Government provides for an increase of army officers pay, he indicates a project of his own, as follows:

Basing my views on this supposition, it appears evident that Congress is not going to help us in any other way. I have a project to submit, which I think will be of great benefit to the Government, and to the people at large. It is well known that, in the last few years, gunny bags, four sacks, and the lighter articles of clothing, have increased greatly in price, and that still the supply is by no means equal to the demands. I propose, then, that the Senate should pass a bill, authorizing the War Department (pay), should make a small appropriation (\$100,000, say) for furnishing each officer of the army with one of the newly invented patent sewing machines, which would place in his hands at once an easy, pleasant and profitable method of increasing his income. I have secured the rights to this machine, the "Grover & Baker" patent, and colored to correspond to the different corps d'armee.

Thus we would have red machines for the artillery

[illegible]

Thus the artillery, accustomed to making breaches could readily manufacture pantaloons, and might be called the 1st, 2nd, 3d and 4th Trowerloops; the infantry, used to the sack of cities and fortified towns, could make gunny bags, and should be termed the 1st, 2d, &c. Gunny Baggers; while the cavalry, long accustomed to resort to the sword, might shift their riding, could readily produce shirts, and should be distinguished as the 1st Red Flannel, the Light Muslin, or the Linen Bosoms. The engineers, familiar with the best method of throwing up breast-works, would be the corset makers; the topographical

all the papers say the people highly approve that the success of the army may, but I express won't do that, if they will only give us the machine, the power, we can show their appreciation of the army, but you

ing our productions. Bless me, how very comfortable we might be. I estimate that a strong lat lieutenant of infantry could produce forty gunny bags per annum, which, at twenty cents a piece, would be equal to the pay of the members of Congress, before they increased it.

Imagine an order like the following :

	HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, }
	October 20, 1857. }

[Orders No. 39.]

1. The 1st Gunny Bags will repair without delay to Co. Connecticut, to be in readiness for the potato

2. Lieut. Col. Flabber has leave of absence to-day, and a new hoop skirt for Mrs. F., and new little for himself and the children.

3. 1st Lieut. Wiggins, 3d Gunny Bags, having distinguished himself by making fifty sacks in one day, and while suffering with a sore finger, is hereby made Hemstitcher by brevet, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly. By order of the Lieut. General.

Imagine the excitement produced at a fancy fair of the celebrity bazar (we could afford to be charitable then) by a shirt of wondrous workmanship, placarded, "This entire shirt by Lieut. Gen. Scott, with his ma-

Alas, the picture is too bright. I am afraid that the Senate, or some "leading members" will make amendments, and we never shall get the machines, or the pay either.

But I am sure that the effort will be made, that the Senate, like Omphale bestowing the distaff on Hercules, will liberally decide to invest us with the mowing machines, and that the Army may then grind us up, on a self-supporting engine, with no further favors to ask for.

I cannot but feel that Congress will be very much

deducted to me personally for these valuable suggestions, which, if followed out, will be productive of so much happiness, and allow them to enjoy their country as I am doing; let them see that they are not from my duty, army in future; but I have simply none my duty, and seek no reward. On the contrary, I, with that liberality and humanity which have distinguished that noble body, the Senate act on your suggestion favorably, thereby giving myself, and my colleagues, the opportunity of gunging ourselves with such herbs and smelling pot, tasteful, adorned with cotton lace and brilliant ribbons by Mrs. Thence, for each of those leading Senators who

certain great aversion to officers above the rank of major; and, therefore, slew so unmercifully Quitman's bill. (That's so.)

With intense respect for whom, and everybody else, I subscribe myself,

JOHN PHENIX,
Late Oregon T. 1st Light Mules.

THE INAUGURATION.—The city of Washington is already beginning to fill up with strangers in view of the approaching Presidential Inauguration. The Stars says:

There are more stranger ladies, of fashionable ex-

eriors, in Washington at this time than we ever before saw here except on an inauguration day. Their presence gives a glow of animation, not only to the immediate surroundings of Congress, the pastors of our fashionable hotels, the Smithsonian Institution, the Patent Office building, and other public edifices, but to the city of Washington as a whole. The streets of Pennsylvania avenue, which glitters with the sun when the sun shines, until it perhaps equalled Broadway itself, on Monday afternoon.

A LATE DISCOVERY.—A writer in the *London Post* has discovered that George Washington was born in Maryland, and makes up the following statements to

"I read in the Stars and Stripes or American Impressions, that General Washington never went to England, although he wished to do so. I think there were good grounds for his doing so, because he was born in England; he was the son of the English soil. Augustine Washington was born in Virginia, but George Washington was born in Cookham, Berkshire, nineteen miles from Windsor, from the second wife of his father, Miss Bull. The house in which he was born does not exist any longer, but the natives are aware of the fact, and assure that the place is the same."

REASONABLE.—Among the many things in "Porter's Spirit," the following, which, at about as good a guess as I can make, is a heavy fire having occurred in Cleveland, a safe-manufacturing firm in New York wrote to the sufferers from the fire to ascertain how one of their safes had stood the scorching. The proprietor wrote back that the "safe" was "safe"—that was wonderful, and adds that the night previous

the fire one of the clerks placed a Shanghai rooster in the safe for safe keeping. In the morning the safe was dug out red hot, opened, and the rooster found "leaning up against the ledger frozen to death!"

NOTICE.

ON and after the 1st day, January 12th, 1857, all *present* Advertisements MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE, in cash, before they will be inserted.

(For friends in the country as well as in town will please bear this in mind, and remit the amount they are willing to pay for their advertisements with the copy they wish inserted.)

Many years ago, in times of which the eloquent orator of a tomorrow will speak far better than we can write, the sun of the 26th of February rose upon a people excited by other and less pleasurable feelings and anticipations than those which now occupy the minds of the people of this section of North Carolina. Then a dark and doubtful struggle was seen approaching—then men were hurrying to and fro, their ordinary avocations neglected, not for the pleasures of a gay pageant, or the joys of social intercourse, but to meet danger and guard against threatened evil. The yeomanry of the Cape Fear and the Neuse were watching the progress of the clansmen, and gathering rapidly to the point at which the stand was to be made, for the purpose of arresting that progress. Anxiety for the result, fear for the effects of its success upon the cause which patriots would not be absent from the hearts of the old and brave, as they looked forward to the morrow. Nor could the feelings of the clansmen have been easily analyzed. Half loyal and half doubtful—half united and half divided—they, too, must have had strange thoughts.

And the morrow—the 27th—which so many will celebrate in peace and harmony now, then presented a very different appearance—within the lines, now freely marked by gentle elevations, the sites of former encampments, and where women and children were loitering in careless security, were now only stern men, and where the shouts of the clansmen would stand to give forth its joyous salute, the engine of war was planted to vomit forth the messengers of death on the advancing foe. The plain wooden bridge was then a plank, and the causeway through the swamp and the dark waters of the sluggish creek formed the death-bed of many who arose that morning full of life. To-morrow hundreds will point to the stump beside which the brave Highland leader fell, or stand beside the bridge and look for smokes still buried in the old trees. The descendants of the men of that day will meet in peace to-morrow, although, perchance, at that early stage in the revolutionary struggle their sires may have honestly differed.

The contrasts of peace and war are always strongly marked, but seldom is the distinction so striking as when the transition is from civil war to social harmony. But when from peace and security the transition is to intestine feud and dissension, the mind is something more painful than striking—the thought is startling, and wonder is first in apprehension. Sometimes we think of such things, when we hear civil war and dissension talked of flippantly as something rather desirable than otherwise—to be hoped for and sought for even on its own account, or, *per se*, as the slaves go.

But let all that go for what it is worth, and let us rejoice in holiday like a boy out of school. Paper out to-morrow morning, and no more paper until Monday. Good!—*Daily Journal of yesterday.*

The Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad Company—Fayetteville and the Coal Mines.

The stockholders in the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad Company will shortly meet for the purpose of acting upon the amendments to the charter of that Company, passed by the last Legislature.

In connection with this, various matters will engage the attention of the stockholders and the public, and every idea or suggestion bearing upon the subject, directly or incidentally, ought to be duly and respectfully considered, and with this view, and under this impression, we invite public attention to certain views and suggestions contained in a letter from a gentleman in Fayetteville to another in this town, by whom these views and suggestions have been placed in our hands with the desire that they should be given to the public.

The writer refers to the fact that the charter of the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad has been so amended as to allow that work to commence at Fayetteville; he then goes on to say that the first ten or twelve miles of the Fayetteville and Western Railroad, already graded, are on the line of the best practicable route from Fayetteville to Rockingham, the first point west of Fayetteville mentioned in the charter of the Company. That by starting to build the road on this line from Fayetteville West, at least ten miles would be already graded, and only fifteen remain to be done before the State could be called on for an endorsement of bonds to the amount of \$200,000.

From Fayetteville to Rockingham, by the route suggested would be about fifty-five miles—a straight line between the two places is fifty-one miles. From Rockingham to Fayetteville would be seventeen miles less than from Rockingham to Whiteville.—Taking the Fayetteville route, the Robeson County subscription would be of course lost.

Says the writer:—“At Fayetteville you will have the advantage of the river, as long as it will be found sufficient to transport the produce to your town, and when it does not afford a sufficient avenue, then your *Weldon Road* can make another which will throw the produce and coal on the *Wilmington side* of the river, and forever prevent a coal deposit below you, or a rival town to share the business.”

“Fayetteville and Cumberland, I think will subscribe \$100,000 towards the work, and the Coal Fields Road probably as much as the value of that road as far as it can be used.”

The writer thinks that by uniting the interests and efforts of the friends of these works—the W. C. & R. R. R., and the Fayetteville and Western R. R.—both will be more certain of ultimate success and prosperity, while the unfortunate alienation of feeling too well known to exist between Fayetteville and Wilmington, and which under the influence of irritating newspaper articles, is daily increasing.

We set out simply with the view of laying this matter before our readers, as well, or at least as clearly as we could understand it, and having done so, we mean to stop without any expression of opinion, either for or against it. It is desirable that two communities united by geographical position, should also be united by the ties of friendship and friendly co-operation. In order to this an understanding must be arrived at—propositions, formal or informal must mutually be made and mutually considered, and although no particular proposition may be accepted in its entirety, still out of the intercourse so carried on, an agreement and an understanding may arise. Our own views on this matter of a union with Fayetteville and the coal mines have already been expressed and need not now be repeated. But whether this, or the other proposed mode of effecting this connection be adopted, we are for some mode of uniting the interests and securing the minerals.

63—We are led to believe that the celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek, on Friday next, will be in all respects a pleasant affair. Upon the whole, the weather promises to remain settled, and at present it is delightful; the arrangements will be ample, and the prohibition of the sale of any liquor on or near the ground, will secure the same perfect order and propriety which formed so marked a feature in last year's celebration.

We would respectfully suggest the propriety of all who can do so, going prepared to make a subscription or contribution to the monument, the corner stone of which is to be laid on the occasion. Everybody can give something, be it ever so little, and thus mark his or her feeling in the matter, for, we presume the ladies are not to be excluded from contributing to so patriotic a work.

By the way, we have been requested to suggest to the ladies attending—and it is to be hoped that they may all attend—the great convenience of a luncheon basket. Dinner will, no doubt, be beautifully provided, but it will take place after the other ceremonies have been concluded, and the little receptacle of provender already alluded to, will be found not at all in the way, in the meantime.

Daily Journal of the 24th.

Harper, for March, is on our table. It has the initial article of “North Carolina Illustrated,” by Porter Crayon, the author of innumerable and incomparable sketches of Virginia. For sale by Whitaker. Also, from the publisher, S. Hueston, 248 Broadway, N. Y., the Knickerbocker, for March; good and sprightly, as usual.

Also, Dickens' Household Words; apparently a good number of a good work.

Location of Workshops.

The Stockholders of the W. C. & Rutherford R. Road, at a special meeting held at Marion Court House, on Tuesday last, resolved to locate their Workshops at Wilmington. It was decided to erect a temporary house at Marion C. H., for the shelter and repair of locomotives.

A COUNTER CURRENT.—One of the unusual things of the present day is presented by the fact of the steamship Asia bringing \$400,000 in specie from England to the United States. This is unusual, and since the great famine in Europe, may be regarded as without precedent.

ELECTION OF CONSTITABLES.—The following gentlemen were on Monday last elected Constables for the Upper District of Wilmington for the ensuing year, viz: Messrs. John B. Utley and Lewis M. Williams; and Messrs. John Cosin and Callie for the Lower District.

63—The Fayetteville Observer, in its last issue very courteously leaves the Journal in company with the devil. We appreciate highly the sacrifice which the Observer makes in so doing, but we cannot consent to take advantage of its liberality and thus separate old friends. Very much obliged to the Observer, but think that paper had better hold on to him. It knows his ways better than we do.

Congressional.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—In the House the deficiency bill was passed, and also the bill allowing pay to the South Carolina volunteers from Edisto, in 1812.

The clause relating to the Kansas Territorial Legislature was stricken out of the Legislative Appropriation bill.

In the Senate a bill passed amending the Tariff of 1846 with a view to a more complete adoption of the “home valuation.”

The President requested an appropriation of \$17,000 for an Envoy Extraordinary to Persia, with Secretary and Interpreter.

Death of Dr. Kane, the Arctic Navigator.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23.—The Steamer Cahaba has arrived here with dates from Havana to the 20th. Dr. Kane, the Arctic navigator, died there on the 16th. He expired peacefully and gently as a little child. The greatest sympathy was shown by the officials of the island, all of whom attended the funeral obsequies, including the Captain General, and an immense concourse of residents and others. The corpse was brought here on the Cahaba, and will be forwarded by river to Philadelphia.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—We are sorry to hear that an explosion of fire damp occurred in the Egypt Coal Mine, on Deep River, on Friday last, by which five men, out of six who were in the mine at the time, were killed.

The explosion occurred in the lower part of the mine, and from that we heard of the character of those employed at the mine when we visited it last year, we suppose that they were very worthy men.

This fire damp, or explosion of the gas which collects in coal mines where ventilation is difficult, may be prevented by care; but miners become careless by long habit, and neglect the necessary precautions.

Fayetteville Observer.

The following opinions have been delivered by the Supreme Court.

By NASH, C. J. In West vs. Sloan, in equity, from Mecklenburg; plaintiff entitled to a re-conveyance and to an account. Also, in Marshall vs. Fling, from New Hanover, affirming the judgment. Also, in Doe ex dem. Keins vs. Feeler, from Rowan, affirming the judgment. Also, in McElroy vs. Harris, in equity, from Davidson, affirming the judgment. Also, in the order of appeal from. Also, in Doe ex dem. Black vs. Caldwell, from Mecklenburg, affirming the judgment. Also, in Dewey vs. Cochran, from Cabarrus, affirming the judgment.

By PERKINS, J. In Mann vs. Hunter, from Pasquotank, affirming the judgment. Also, in Rives vs. Dreyfus, from Brunswick, affirming the judgment. Also, in Brown vs. Brown, from Orange, affirming the judgment. Also, in Neal and Richardson vs. Wilcox, from Jones, affirming the judgment. Also, in Springs vs. Harvin, in equity, from Mecklenburg, directing a reference. Also, in Perry vs. Yarbrough, in equity, from Franklin.

By BARNWELL, J. In Thredgill vs. Barnwell, in equity, from Johnston, dismissing the bill. Also, in Barnwell vs. Thredgill, in equity, from Anson, decree for plaintiffs. Also, in Watt vs. Johnston, from Chatham, affirming the judgment. Also, in Schoolfield vs. Chambers from Person, affirming the judgment. Also, in Symons vs. Northem, from Davidson, affirming the judgment. Also, in Ingram vs. Ingram, from Union, affirming the judgment. Also, in Smithwick vs. Shepherd, from Martin, affirming the judgment.

Secretary Dobbin.

The generous conduct of this gentleman towards the veteran Commodore Stewart, of our navy-yard, says the *Pennsylvania*, has deeply endeared him not only to the friends of the Commodore but to all classes of society in Philadelphia. There is, perhaps, no one of the retiring cabinet that leaves his high office with as many friends and as few enemies as Mr. Dobbin, and will carry with him into his retirement the sincere love of so many thousands of our countrymen in every section of our Union.

Although in feeble health, no person could have exceeded him in his indefatigable discharge of the laborious functions of his responsible department. Under his administration our flag has been seen in every sea, and our commerce has been promoted in the service, and important reforms have been made under his recommendation. When duty has demanded his stern exercise of discipline, he has tempered it with such a gentle bearing that even the offender left him with an impression of regard and respect. We hope that his health will be invigorated by repose from the cares of office, and the beautiful breezes of his native climate, and that a long career of future usefulness yet awaits him. He has many friends in Pennsylvania.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN FRANCE.—The imports of cotton into France for the year 1856, were 450,000 bales against 416,239 bales in 1855, and 416,883 in 1854. The imports into all the ports of France in 1856 were 605,222 bales. The stock in France on the 1st of January, was 44,427 bales, against 62,267 bales in 1855; in 1856, 63,800 bales; and in 1854, 31,076 bales. Very little except American cotton appears to be used in France, as yet. At Havre, in 1854, the imports of other descriptions than those of the United States, were only 3,304 bales from Brazil, 96 from Egypt, 1,355 from the East Indies, and 6,163 from other countries.

An old gentleman who has dabbled all his life in statistics, says he never heard of but one woman who insured her life, and he accounts for this by the singular fact of one of the questions being, “What is your age?”

SPEECH OF HON. LAWRENCE O'B. BRANCH.

of North Carolina.

On the President's Message; delivered in the House of Representatives, Dec. 18, 1856.

The House having under consideration the question of referring the President's Message to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and the printing of ten thousand copies thereof—

Mr. Branch said:—“I feel no hesitation in engaging in this debate, because I do not think it either unprofitable or a waste of time. I do not think we would be badly occupied if we were only gathering up and arranging the materials for the history of the past; and probably we could not be better employed than in defining clearly what issues have been settled by the people, in order that parties and individuals may follow their conduct to the popular verdict. I do not think it worth while to inquire why the people decided as they did; but I propose to state what, in my opinion, the people did decide, and what ought to be considered hereafter as settled by the contest.

Before proceeding to do so, however, I wish to add one or two remarks which fall from the gentleman from Indiana, [Mr. Cumback] who addressed the House yesterday.

As proof of the deleterious effects of slavery, where it prevails, the gentleman cited the fact, which he says appears from the census of 1850, that the State of Georgia has improved and under cultivation but six millions of acres of land, while it has sixteen millions more uncultivated. Nature has been bountiful to the southern States in many respects, and has given to them much fertile soil; but if the State of Georgia possesses the proportion of good, arable soil—such as would tempt cultivation, whilst so much unappropriated land of great fertility is offered by the Government at no great distance off—as this gentleman does, it indicates, that the greater proportion of good land than any other southern or western State with which I am acquainted. Much less than one-fourth of our land is desirable for cultivation, and hence our population is sparse. This sparseness may entail upon us some disadvantages; but if it has tended to preserve us from the crimes, the sins, and the follies which so generally afflict the thickly settled northern States, we are amply compensated for every disadvantage.

I must say also to the gentleman, that if with slave labor Georgia cultivates six millions of acres, without slave labor it would not cultivate one million. Our soil and climate render it certain that without slave labor our entire crop of sugar and rice, and the greater part of our cotton, would be annihilated. And when we are annihilated, what would remain of the commerce, trade, and property of the North? We have the satisfaction to know that when our northern assailants shall destroy us, they cannot themselves escape from the ruins.

The gentleman also alleges that the slaveholding States are behind the non-slaveholding in railroad building and other improvements. I have read these assertions in newspapers and elsewhere, and seen them go forth uncontradicted; but they shall not go out from this Hall without being exposed. I hold in my hand a table, prepared by myself from data furnished by the American Almanac, published in Boston, showing the extent of the railroad, the number of population, and the proportion between the two, in the Atlantic States. It does not embrace the north-western States, because their railroads were, to a large extent, built by the Federal Government out of the common property of the Union, and furnish no indication of the wealth or enterprise of those States. I take the States embraced within the limits of the original thirteen.

States.	White Population.	Total Population.	Miles Railroad.	White population to each mile of railroad.	White population to each mile of inland.
New England & N. York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.	8,477,896	8,626,629	8,074	1,050	1,068
New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, New York, New York.	2,738,079	4,609,956	3,912	700	1,160
New York, Pennsylvania, New York, New York, New York.	5,409,180	5,976	3,976	1,37	

It appears from this table that notwithstanding the fact that it embraces the densely settled manufacturing States of New England, with their concentrated wealth, and notwithstanding that the North, in trade, has always held its own, its wealth and its enterprise contributing materially to build and improve its roads; whilst ours derive no patronage from them except as an occasional “drummer” seeks our custom—yet we have built and now have in operation just fifty per cent. more of railroad, in proportion to white population, than the North has.

If we include our slaves, free negroes, and Indians, (though there is no right of citizenship for the latter in counting the horses, cattle, or other live property of the North,) the North is less than ten per cent. in advance of us.

If we compare with the great agricultural States of New York and Pennsylvania, which have coal and the commerce of the great lakes to aid them, we have double as much in proportion to white population as they have; and counting our slave population as negroes and Indians, we are twenty-five per cent. in advance of them.

This course of remark gives me no pleasure, nor would I derive any satisfaction from such a comparison, if it had not been necessary to vindicate the manliness and the enterprise of a great people as against the policy of big game hunting, and the selfishness, for holding to the institutions of their fathers.

Satisfied with the bright deeds of the past, the fruition of the present, and the glorious promise of the future, I willingly pass on from the vindication of my people, to inquire what of their rights were decided by the recent election.

Through the agency of the *Wilmington*, on every banner and occupying the prominent place in every party platform—the Kansas and Nebraska bill, the repeal of the Missouri restriction, non-intervention by Congress in regard to slavery in the States or Territories. I saw every other issue that parties or individuals attempted to place before the people prominently and decisively repudiated, and the whole contest was a triumph for the people of the North.

Everywhere, North, South, East, and West, not only accepting that issue, but presenting it as that on which they demanded the verdict of the country. I saw the Black Republican party endeavor to dodge and shirk that issue, and pretend that the real issue was slavery or no slavery, and whether Congress should legislate in regard to the Territories, although it is known that the Democratic party have voted to oppose a law of Congress establishing slavery as it does one prohibiting it. I saw the issue clearly and decisively made, and the verdict of the people clearly and distinctly rendered in favor of the Kansas and Nebraska bill, in favor of peace to the South, and in favor of the non-slaveholding States.

I have heard nothing in the debate here, and read nothing in the similar debate in the other end of the country, to make me doubt whether the issue had been fairly made—on the contrary, much to my regret, it was; and I should not open my lips but for the gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr. H. Marshall],—a course of remark calculated to fan into flame the dying embers of slavery strife, and sow dissensions among those who are striving to extinguish them. If the South would keep to the issue of non-intervention, and I would not have been surprised at the gentleman's remarks, for I could only construe them into a denial that the recent election had settled anything in our favor; and if it settled nothing, of course the Black Republicans will feel themselves justified in continuing to agitate.

On what ground does the honorable gentleman thus summarily strip the South of all the benefits of the recent election? He says the Democrats at the North repudiated the Kansas and Nebraska bill as invading the people of those Territories with power to abolish slavery through the Territorial Legislatures, whilst the Democrats at the South represented that it could not be abolished or prohibited until the people were summoned to form a constitution. This ground he charges that different persons of the Democratic party place different constructions on the bill. Now, sir, I may admit the gentleman's premises—I do admit

that some persons maintain the opinion that the Legislature of a Territory can prohibit slavery, whilst others maintain that it cannot; but that is not because of any difference of construction placed on the bill, but only a difference of opinion as to how a judicial question, arising not under the bill, but under the Constitution of the United States, will be decided by the Supreme Court.

The bill leaves the people “free to regulate their own domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States.” The friends of the bill all agree that this clause releases the Territories, as regards their domestic institutions, from congressional control, but leaves them to be controlled by the Constitution. They agree to be controlled by the Constitution to regulate them not only in such manner, but also at such time, as may not be inconsistent with the Constitution. And they agree that, if a question arises either as to the character of any particular regulation, or as to the competency of the Legislature to make it, it is a judicial question, to go to the courts, and be decided not by reference to the bill, but by reference to the principles of the Constitution. Up to this point there is no disagreement among the friends of the bill, and all agree that at this point the bill stops.

The question remaining to be decided is, whether, according to the principles of our Constitution, a Legislature (especially of an insular Territory) can make fundamental regulations, abolishing the existing rights of property already vested in individuals under State constitutions. I admit that on this point there is a difference of opinion, but all are willing to abide by the decision of the Supreme Court; and as the Kansas and Nebraska bill throws no light on it, and never pretended to decide it, the gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr. Marshall], who has the honor of introducing an act to refer a case to the Court of Claims, because we may differ in opinion as to how the Court ought to decide the case.

Gentlemen on the other side ask us tauntingly what opinion the President elect entertains on these points. I undertake to say, without having any special knowledge on the subject, that the gentleman from Kentucky, [Mr. Marshall], who has the honor of introducing an act to refer a case to the Court of Claims, because we may differ in opinion as to how the Court ought to decide the case.

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willing to abide by their decision. We know the act repealed the signs upon us and our institutions which had been standing on the statute-book for more than thirty years. That commended it to our countrymen. But above all we embraced it because it contained the great doctrine of non-intervention by Congress; because, under the fair and full operation of that principle, the question of slavery could no more get into Congress to furnish fuel for the fires of agitation, and to make the main element in elections; because under it and our institutions would cease to be a foot-ball in the political arena, and because it might expect peace and security instead of the insubordination and insurrection which northern fanaticism is beginning to produce in our midst.

We know that the great evil under which we are suffering is the domestic dispute caused by congressional agitation, and we embraced that bill cordially; not because it established slavery in the Territories, for we know it did not, nor yet because we thought it insured the establishment of slavery; for leading southern statesmen declared their great doubt whether slavery would ever be desired by the people there, and none thought the stability of the institution in the southern States depended in any degree on the decision of the people of Kansas. It was embraced because it removed an odious and unconstituted discrimination against us, and promised to arrest constitutional agitation on the subject.

Gentlemen representing the slaveholding States, who have had so recently an opportunity to learn the temper and fixed determination of the people of those States, need not be told that the continued existence of this Union depends on the cessation of congressional agitation of slavery; and that on our return home after the last session of Congress, we found those who are most attached to the Union, and less in the habit of anticipating its dissolution, declaring sorrowfully, but firmly, that unless we can have more quiet in the Union, we will be compelled to separate and place ourselves in a position to fend off intrusions detrimental to our peace. The South demands peace; and peace she must and will have. The heavy and stupefying sleep that follows submission to wrong and insult, but the repose of health and vigor—the peaceful enjoyment of acknowledged rights.

After a two years' contest of unparalleled violence—and at times, sir, of such doubtful issue as to overwhelm the friends of our Constitution with gloom and despondency—the people have rendered their final verdict in that high court from which there is no appeal, in favor of the Kansas and Nebraska bill—in favor of peace and union, and against congressional agitation on the subject of slavery.

Will our opponents submit to the verdict? They cannot successfully assail it. They cannot hope to get inside of the Constitution. But they will continue to introduce it in the future, as they have done in the past, if permitted to exercise a free choice; and I have no fear that, under any construction which the Supreme Court may place on the Kansas and Nebraska act, the citizens of the slaveholding States will suffer any injustice at the hands of those whom gentlemen are pleased to call equitables.

There are many in the ranks of the Democratic party who differ from me on this point, some being some fearing that the people will exclude slavery if they have the power. We honestly differ in opinion on a matter of opinion; and I hope no gentleman will say we construe the act differently, because we differ in opinion as to the choice the people will probably make.

Mr. Speaker, I advocated the Kansas and Nebraska bill the time it was enacted. I have advocated it throughout the long and trying ordeal through which it has passed. I stand upon the bill as it is in all its features. I will make no new issue on it, for a new issue involves renewed agitation, and a surrender of the great points already gained. Give us a faithful execution of that law, and my constituents will be satisfied. If equitably treated, if it is there, and can only get there by being in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, and whatever is in that instrument is right.

The honorable gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Nichols] said much about “Buchanan, Breckinridge, and free Kansas.” Sir, I am for free Kansas; I am for free Kansas—free to select her own institutions, free to work out her own destiny, free from the control of inferior foreign and alien to her interests; free from the withering invasion of fanaticism; free, as Kentucky is free, and as North Carolina is free.

The gentleman from Ohio and his associates are not for free Kansas. They would enslave Kansas, for the hope of changing the social status of an inferior race. They would enslave the white man of Kansas—deprive him of his political freedom, that the negro may be free.

Sir, I am for free white men, and free States everywhere. The gentleman from Ohio and his associates are for free negroes. I am for free Kansas; and I believe for Buchanan and Breckinridge, because I believe for them to be free Kansas.

The following communication appears in the *Charleston Mercury* of Thursday last, with approbatory remarks. It is from a writer in Fayetteville. We insert it for our readers may be advised of the different projects on foot and proposed to be accomplished.

Should the city of Charleston wish to reach the Coal Fields on Deep River, a far better plan can be suggested than the Cheraw and Coal Fields Railroad Company, chartered by the last Legislature, offers. There exists a company in North Carolina, the “Western Railroad Company,” who have chartered privileges which can be made available to the city of Charleston on terms far more favorable than those offered by the Cheraw and Coal Fields charter. The Western Railroad Company was chartered for the purpose of building a Railroad from Fayetteville to the Coal Fields, on Deep River, with the right of the 22d section of the Act of incorporation, “to construct branches to the same, or to connect with any other railroad that may be constructed in the State; the road can be extended from Fayetteville to the Wilmington and Manchester Road, at the State line, and the Northeastern road can be made to terminate either by its main stem or a branch at the same point; or the Wilmington and Manchester road can be used from the State line to the point where the Northeastern road is intended to strike the same, which is understood to be Florence.

Under the 22d section of the charter, the “Western Railroad” can likewise be continued to and connected with the North Carolina Railroad at any point which runs almost the entire length of the State, and the City of Charleston will thus have access to the entire productions of the State. Ten miles of the forty between Fayetteville and the Coal Fields is ready for the iron, and every means possible is being used to complete the work. Fayetteville enjoys a large trade, and its commercial importance is worth the attention of Charleston.

It is understood that the Cheraw charter requires a tax of twenty cents per ton on Coal and other products, and twenty cents per passenger to be paid to the State Treasury by the Company. No such tax is required of the Western Railroad Company, which is an item of vast importance. From Cheraw to the Coal Fields must be eighty miles, through a barren and unproductive country, as poor as any in the State, upon which no subscriptions can be had; while, on the other hand, every cent from the State line to Fayetteville is well used and productive, and able to make liberal subscriptions—Robeson county being one of the wealthiest in the State—all of which would be tributary to Charleston if this road was built, while the length of line would not be materially changed; and in all respects the Robeson county and Fayetteville line would be greatly preferable.

It is not the advantage of the Cheraw charter, but the intention of Charleston. If you intend to make an effort to secure a portion of the North Carolina trade and free access to the rich mineral region of Deep River, is not the securing of the trade of Robeson county, and of Fayetteville, eminently desirable in the first instance with a prospective connection with the North Carolina Railroad, a point worth struggling for? It can be obtained through the “Western Railroad,” which has the right to connect with the North Carolina road at any desired point, and through no other channel. Is it not of vastly more importance than eighty miles of unproductive country, and a heavy tax on all your transport, on the Cheraw line?

ROBESON COUNTY.

A certain member of Congress was speaking one day on some important question, and became very animated, during which he grimaced terribly which set a brother member, composed of the question, to laughing. This anecdote was very much, and he demanded to know why the gentleman from — was laughing at him.

“He was smiling at your manner of making monkey faces,” said the gentleman from —.

“Oh, make monkey faces,” said the gentleman from —.

There are now about one hundred slaves, it is stated, in region territory, and the emigration is rapidly increasing.

A gentleman of Alabama was lying in bed one morning, when a friend stepping in said hastily, "R—, breakfast is waiting in." "Let it come, exclaimed R—, with a look of defiance, "I am not afraid of it!"

He says he don't know; he not been dare dis tree week.'

rebellion had been crushed. Several of the leaders had been arrested. An officer of the steamer stated that if the treaty is accepted the steamer will remain for repairs, otherwise she would return immediately. The party proceed on to Washington tomorrow.

New York, Feb. 21.—The Grand Jury have indicted Mrs. Cunningham and Eckel—and Snodgrass has been held to bail as a witness.

he deceased was about 30 years of age. Elliott and his friends immediately returned to town, and ends this duel—the first fatal one on that well-known fighting ground for Georgians. Elliott is related to Bishop Elliott, and Daniel is a nephew of Major Scriven, of Savannah.

...on the 20th inst.